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MEMO TO: North Dakota Educators

FROM: Laurie Matzke, Division Manager
Student Support & Innovation

DATE: July 20, 2015

RE: Important Updates

Please carefully review the information addressed within this memorandum. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is providing updates on the following six issues:

1. New NDDPI Website
2. Additional Reorganization Changes
3. Consolidated Application Updates
4. Program Improvement Reminders
5. Federal Title Allocations
6. New Title I/ELL Teacher Training

1. New NDDPI Website

For the past several months, staff within the NDDPI have been working on a framework for the department's new website. The new website at www.nd.gov/dpi has now been launched. The department is in the process of moving content onto its new website. The website organizes content into four main categories:

- Parents/Students
- Educators
- Administrators
- Community

Moving content from the former website to the new website is a monumental task as there is a wealth of information online. Each office within the NDDPI is working to transfer relevant information, as well as publish new information on the website. We recognize this is a work in progress, and information will be published as soon as it is ready. During this time of transition, if there is something specific you need, please email your contact person within the Division of Student Support & Innovation and they can email you forms or documents that may not yet be accessible on the new website.

2. Additional Reorganization Changes

In May 2015, North Dakota State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler established a new Student Support & Innovation Division within the Department of Public Instruction.

On Monday, June 15, 2015, Superintendent Baesler promoted Ann Ellefson to be the new director of the Office of Academic Support.

With Ann's promotion to Director of Academic Support, Stefanie Two Crow has been named the new Deputy Director for the Office of Federal Title Programs. Both of these changes went into effect on July 1, 2015.

The Division of Student Support & Innovation includes three offices: Indian/Multicultural Education, Academic Support, and Federal Title Programs, all of which provide federal and state money to help disadvantaged students. The changes are all designed to provide better services to at-risk students by grouping department personnel together who specialize in this work.

The three offices within the Division of Student Support & Innovation will provide coordinated resources, strategies, and initiatives to schools to help them support at-risk students and foster collaboration among the different programs to assist these populations of students.

Both Ann and Stefanie will continue to be the contact person for the districts listed under their purview on the contact list located on the department's website. Ann will continue to collaborate on program improvement initiatives and oversee the paraprofessional certificates. Stefanie will maintain her current portfolios and also take over the oversight of the private school programs, previously held by Ann.

3. **Consolidated Application Updates**

Please note the following key updates regarding the Consolidated Application for Federal Title Funding.

Application for Federal Title Funding has now been posted on the new website. Please review the guidance for updated information. In the 2015-2016 school year, the NDDPI is allowing districts to REAP/Transfer their Title IIA funds into Title I, Title III, Title IID, Title IV, and Title V. The revised guidance outlines additional requirements regarding this option. All consolidated application information is posted on the website by following the text links: Home: Administrators: Federal Title Programs: Resources: Consolidated Application.

Carryover – The final Title I and Title II/REAP 2014-2015 carryover amounts to be entered on the allocation section of the application can be found on your Final Financial Report once it has been approved and returned to the authorized representative.

Needs Assessment – The Title IIA regulations require each district to have a needs assessment. Once again, districts must upload a copy of their needs assessment into the 2015-2016 consolidated application. Each district should have received a rubric with feedback on the 2014-2015 needs assessment to assist in making any necessary changes before submitting for the 2015-2016 school year.

Contact Person – The Division of Student Support & Innovation assigns a contact person to each school district in the state. The list was recently revised due to the reorganization changes and is attached to this mailing. Please ensure your district has communicated with its contact person to conduct an initial review of your application prior to submitting.

4. **Program Improvement Reminders**

We are aware that some administrators were unable to attend the Federal Title Programs Regional Workshops in May. Therefore, we want to share the following reminders for the 2015-2016 school year pertaining to schools and districts in improvement.

- **Program Improvement Plan** – Due to the AYP freeze, schools and districts do not have to submit a new program improvement plan for the 2015-2016 school year.
- **AYP Reports and Letters** – The release of AYP reports will be significantly delayed this year due to the spring testing. We anticipate the preliminary reports to be released in late August. The Office of Federal Title Programs will be providing guidance on language to include in the letter due to the AYP freeze in the coming weeks.
- **Program Improvement Funding** – As a reminder, schools identified for improvement have the opportunity to apply for additional funding up to \$40,000 to implement initiatives designed to raise academic achievement. With the new website going live, not all forms and guidance are posted yet. If you are interested in applying but need the application and guidance forwarded to you, please email your contact person for this information. The deadline to apply is August 28, 2015.



5. Federal Title Allocations

The 2015-2016 final Federal Title I and Title II program allocations have been calculated and are posted on the NDDPI website. The final allocations have also been populated into the consolidated applications on STARS.

These final allocations show a slight (>1%) increase in Title I funding compared to the previous school year allocations. This amounts to a \$198,110 increase in federal funding for Title I. The Title IIA allocation went down a minimal amount (\$34,374) so these allocations should have also calculated similar to last year's amounts.

6. New Title I/ELL Teacher Training

The Division of Student Support & Innovation is excited to announce it will be offering a training opportunity for new Title I and new English Language Learners (ELL) teachers, and anyone else interested, on August 27, 2015, at the Baymont Inn & Suites in Mandan, ND. All new personnel will greatly benefit from the training.

The training is being set up as a mini-conference program. The day will include general sessions and individual breakout sessions.

The training will go over the rules, regulations, policies, forms, etc., pertaining to each Title program and answer any questions your new teachers might have.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, see details below.

Date: August 27, 2015
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Place: Baymont Inn & Suites in Mandan, ND

There is no fee to attend this training and travel expenses can be reimbursed using your local Title I or Title II funds. The on-line registration link has been posted at www.surveymonkey.com/r/G6X9TYM.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact me at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284.